Visit to Japan by Minister of External Affairs

1676. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of External Affairs paid a visit to Japan in August, 1995;

(b) if so, whether issues on bilateral agreements and other various international issues concerning both the countries were discussed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Minister of External Affairs visited Japan in September 1995 at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Japan and discussed several issues relating to bilateral relations and on other international issues. The Minister called on the Emperor of Japan and met Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry of Japan. He also met members of India Japan Business Cooperation Commitee, members of India-Japan Association India-Japan Parliamentarian Friendship League and Japanese academicians. During the visit, both sides agreed to have a rgular exchange of high level visits. The two sides also agreed to discuss policy towards Asia. During EAM's meeting with MITI Minister, it was agreed that there should be enhanced trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. In this meeting with Japanese corporate leaders, EAM was told that the Japanese Corporations are paying much greater attention to India now. In this meeting with academicians, it was agreed to pursue greater exchanges of academicians and intellectuals between the two sides.

Encouragement to States for Plantation of Valuable Trees

1677. SHRI YEERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have encouraged States like Andhra Pradesh to plant and raise plantations of valuable timber like Rosewood, Sandalwood, etc.;

(b) whether any financial assistance will be given to State Government for raising such plantations of valuable timber; and

(c) if so, the detailed policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Under the 20-Point Programme, afforestation and tree planting activities are undertaken annually throughout the country, including in Andhra Pradesh, keeping in view the availability of funds under the schemes of the Central & State Governments. The species for plantation are determined by the implementing agencies in the States/Union Territories as per the local climatic and soil conditions.

(b) and (c) Financial assistance is given to the State Governments/UTs under the ongoing schemes of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. In undertaking the afforestation and tree planting activities, emphasis is given to the planting of indigenous species that provide fuelwood, fodder, small timber and non-timber forest products to meet the needs of the people.

तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम, जैसलमेर का कार्यकरण

1678. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राजस्थान के मुख्यमंत्री ने जैसलमेर स्थित तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम के कार्यकरण के बारे में जांच कराने की मांग की है; यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस